

Claims 12 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Mori (U.S. Patent No. 5,659,166); claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori in view of Takaragi (U.S. Patent No. 4,885,788); claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori in view of Takaragi and further in view of Shimada (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,635); and claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda (U.S. Patent No. 5,937,391 in view Kitta (U.S. Patent No. 4,767,920). As indicated above, claims 1-20 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections are rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The present Amendment cancels claims 1-20 and adds new claims 21-37 directed to the features of the present invention not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, new claims 21-37 are directed to a point management system, an IC card for use in a point management system, a method of issuing point data to an IC and a method of transmitting point data to an IC card.

For example, the point management system of the present invention includes a point system management apparatus for registering information of a store which participates in a point system and for providing the store with a register store number and an encryption key, both of which are peculiar to the store, and an IC card. The IC card includes a memory having a plurality of point storage areas each storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use and a point management application for processing data encrypted by the encryption key and

including point data and for managing access to each of the point storage areas by the register store number. The point management system also provides a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes the IC card by the using the register store number and the encryption key.

The IC card of the present invention includes a memory having a plurality of point storage areas each storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use by a store having a register store number and an encryption key both of which are peculiar to the store. The IC card further includes a point management application for processing data which is transmitted from outside of the memory of the IC card, encrypted by the encryption key and includes point data and for managing access to each of the point storage areas by the register store number.

A point management system of the present invention includes a point system management apparatus which registers information of a store which participates in a point system and which provides the store with a register store number which is peculiar to the store, and an IC card. The IC card includes a memory which includes a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to the customer's use and a point management application which manages access to each of the point storage areas by the register store number and which secures a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of the IC card in the new store is a first time. Reading and writing apparatus is also provided for reading and writing the IC card by using the register store number.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in new claims 21-37 are not taught or suggested by Mori, Takaragi, Shimada, Kitta or Ikeda whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Mori merely discloses a card processor which continuously executes and controls various related functions such as electronic money, credit and points. However, Mori fails to teach or suggest that a plurality of storage areas are provided in the memory of the storage device so as to correspond to each of the registered stores as in the present invention. Further, Mori does not teach or suggest a point management application for processing data encrypted by an encryption key and for managing access to each of the point storage areas by the register store number as in the present invention.

Therefore, Mori fails to teach or suggest a point system management apparatus for registering information of a store which participates in a point system and for providing the store with a register number and an encryption key both of which are peculiar to the store as recited in the claims.

Further, Mori fails to teach or suggest an IC card which has a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use and a point management application for processing data encrypted by an encryption key and including point data and for

managing access to each of the point storage areas by the register store number as recited in the claims.

The above noted features of the present invention shown above not to be taught or suggested by Mori are also not taught or suggested by any of the other references of record. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims, shown above not to be taught or suggested by Mori, are also not taught or suggested by Takaragi, Shimada, Ikeda and Kitta whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Takaragi merely discloses an IC card with transactions areas which are different depending upon the different encipher and decipher keys. Thus, in Takaragi the transaction areas do not correspond to the registered stores as in the present invention. Further, the transaction areas taught by Takaragi do not store point data corresponding to the registered store as in the present invention.

In Takaragi a cipher key is used to distinguish one area from another. Such use of a cipher key to distinguish the transaction areas is cumbersome and requires extended time consuming processing to access the transaction area. The present invention overcomes these disadvantages by simply corresponding the storages areas to the store numbers. Such is not taught or suggested by Takaragi.

Therefore, combining the teachings of Mori and Takaragi still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in the claims.

Shimada merely discloses a system where previous transactions are read from the card. However, this teaching of Shimada does not anticipate nor render

obvious the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in new claims 21-37 wherein a point management system and IC card are provided such that the point management system includes point system management apparatus which registers information of a store which participates in the point system and the IC card which includes a memory having a plurality of point storage areas each storing point data corresponding to the registered stores.

The above noted deficiencies of Mori, Takaragi and Shimada are also not supplied by either of Ikeda or Kitta. Ikeda simply discloses a system in which in an online shopping mall points are issued and redeemed and where a customer does not have to carry a magnetic card. Kitta discloses an IC card reader and writer which is compatible with various kinds of IC cards having different driving conditions.

These disclosures of each of Ikeda and Kitta fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, neither Ikeda or Kitta teach or suggest the point management system or the IC card as recited in the claims.

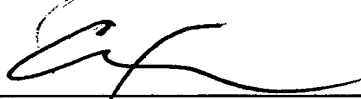
Therefore, combining the teachings of Mori with either one or more of Takaragi, Shimada, Ikeda or Kitta fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in new claims 21-37. Accordingly, the combination of either one or more of Mori, Takaragi, Shimada, Ikeda and Kitta does not anticipate or render obvious the features of the present invention as now recited in new claims 21-37.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 21-37 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 21-37 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.36884X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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Carl I. Brundidge  
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc  
(703) 312-6600